

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (BRZEZINSKI, ZBIGNIEW), KS
SUBJ: DR BRZEZINSKI'S MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN
MINISTER

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF UNCLEARED MEMCON OF DR BRZEZINSKI'S
MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER CHOI KYU-HAH AND FOREIGN MINISTER
PARK TONG-JIN FROM 1025 TO 1050 MAY 25
BEGIN TEXT:

THE PRIME MINISTER REQUESTED DR BRZEZINSKI'S OPINION OF
THE CURRENT VIEW IN PEKING. DR BRZEZINSKI SAID HE WAS STRUCK
WITH THE REALISM OF THE LEADERSHIP AND THE EMPHASIS ON INTENSE
MODERNIZATION WITH A RELIANCE ON TECHNOLOGY. WHILE THERE WAS
STILL A GREAT DEAL OF EMPHAIS ON SELF-RELIANCE, THIS WAS NOT
AT THE EXPENSE OF DOWNGRADING RELATIONS WITH HE ADVANCED
COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD. THE PRIME MINISTER NOTED THAT WHILE
CHAIRMAN HUA WAS IN PEKING FOR MEETINGS WITH KIM IL-SONG THERE
HAD BEEN NO JOINT STATEMENTS, BUT DURING THE VISIT HUA
HAD MADE SEVERAL STATEMENTS. IN REVIEWING THESE THE
PRIME MINISTER FOUND NO SHIFT IN THE TOUGH POSITION
ON KOREA. DR BRZEZINSKI AGREED THAT IN GENERAL THE
POSITION HAD NOT CHANGED BUT THAT THERE WAS A REALIZA-
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TION AND REALISTIC UNDERSTANDING ON THE PART OF THE
CHINESE LEADERSHIP OF THE POWER RELATIONS IN THE REGION.

THE PRIME MINISTER NOTED THAT AT A BANQUET FOR A
JAPANESE SOCIALIST DELEGATION IN PYONGYANG IT WAS
REPORTED THAT THE NORTH KOREANS REJECTED ANY POSSIBILITY
OF TRIPARTITE DIALOGUE AND HE ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY

VIEWS ON THAT IN CHINA. DR BRZEZINSKI SAID THAT IN GENERAL NORTH KOREAN INTEREST IN A DIALOGUE IS PRIMARILY TO HAVE ONE WITH THE US WHICH WOULD BE DESIGNED TO DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN THE US AND THE ROK AND THAT THE US HAS NOT INTEREST IN SUCH DISCUSSIONS. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IN THE SOUTH KOREAN VIEW DIALOGUE SHOULD BE BETWEEN THE NORTH AND THE SOUTH, HOWEVER, THESE TALKS HAD BEEN BROKEN OFF. EVEN THE RED CROSS TALKS WHICH HAD BEEN CONTINUED AFTER POLITICAL TALKS WERE SUSPENDED IN AUGUST 1973 HAD BEEN CUT OFF TWO MONTHS AGO. IN HIS VIEW THE NORTH HAD HOPED TO GAIN A POLITICAL ADVANTAGE FROM BILATERAL TALKS AND PERHAPS CAUSE DISSENSION IN THE SOUTH AND SEPARATE THE US AND THE ROK. THIS DID NOT HAPPEN. IN FACT, THE SOUTH BECAME STRONGER SO THAT THE NORTH SAW NO BENEFIT AND POSSIBLE LOSS FROM A CONTINUATION OF THE DIALOGUE AND HAD THEREFORE BROKEN OFF ALL CONTACT. HE REVIEWED FOR DR BRZEZINSKI THE HISTORY OF NORTH-SOUTH COMMUNICATIONS FROM 1950 TO PRESENT.

DR BRZEZINSKI ASKED IF, IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S VIEW, THE NORTH MIGHT STILL TAKE A MILITARY INITIATIVE. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THE NORTH SAW TWO POSSIBILITIES FOR VICTORY IN THE SOUTH, EITHER MILITARY OR POLITICAL. IF IN THE VIEW OF THE NORTH THERE WERE TO BE POLITICAL INSTABILITY AND ECONOMIC WEAKNESS IN THE SOUTH, THEN IT

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MIGHT WELL STILL TRY A MILITARY OPTION.

THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT COMPENSATORY MEASURES WOULD ADVANCE IN PARALLEL WITH TROOP REMOVAL. DR BRZEZINSKI POINTED OUT THAT THE PRESIDENT DECIDED TO REMOVE ONLY ONE BATTALION OF THE SECOND DIVISION THIS YEAR AS OPPOSED TO EARLIER PLANS TO REMOVE THREE. HE NOTED CONGRESSIONAL RELATIONS WERE COMPLICATED BY ISSUES NOT RELATED TO SECURITY. HE SAID THAT WE HAD TRIED TO SOLVE THESE COMPLICATIONS AND THAT ANY FURTHER ACTION ON THE KOREAN PART FOR THE SAME END WOULD BE HELPFUL AND APPRECIATED. THE PRIME MINISTER NOTED THAT THE SECURITY OF KOREA AFFECTED THE SECURITY OF ALL OF NORTHEAST ASIA AND SHOULD NOT BE SUBJECTED TO INFLUENCE FROM OTHER PROBLEMS. HE DETAILED THE EFFORTS CURRENTLY BEING MADE BY THE ROK TO PROVIDE FOR ITS OWN DEFENSE, THE BURDEN THIS PLACED ON THE PEOPLE, AND THE DIFFICULTY OF BALANCING DEFENSE NEEDS AGAINST DEVELOPMENTAL REQUIREMENTS. DR BRZEZINSKI NOTED THAT OUR REALIZATION OF THESE PROBLEMS WAS WHY THE US HAD OVER THE YEARS IN MANY AREAS OF THE WORLD ASSISTED IN SECURITY EFFORTS. HE TOLD THE PRIME MINISTER THAT THE US WAS DEVELOPING

A RAPID STRIKE FORCE WHICH COULD BE USED WHEREVER REQUIRED AND ASSURED HIM THAT THE US COMMITMENT TO KOREA WAS UNSHAKEABLE. HOWEVER, SINCE NORTH KOREA HAD ONLY ONE-HALF THE POPULATION AND ONE-THIRD THE GNP OF SOUTH KOREA, SOUTH KOREANS MUST ASSUME A PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THEIR DEFENSE BURDEN. ANY SOCIETY WHICH LOOKS TO OTHERS FOR ITS OWN SECURITY LOSES THE WILL TO MAINTAIN THAT SECURITY. DR BRZEZINSKI SAID THIS HAD BEEN A PROBLEM IN VIETNAM BUT THAT CONDITIONS WERE VERY MUCH DIFFERENT TODAY IN KOREA.

FINALLY, THE PRIME MINISTER ASKED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES OF JAPAN INCREASING ITS DEFENSE EXPENDITURES. DR BRZEZINSKI SAID THAT THE JAPANESE SHOULD AND ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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DONG MORE IN THIS AREA. HE NOTED THAT HISTORY MAKES US ALL SOMEWHAT UNCOMFORTABLE WITH INCREASED JAPANESE DEFENSE EFFORTS BUT THAT A GRADUAL INCREASE IN THEIR EFFORTS IS ACCEPTABLE. HE NOTED THAT THE VIEW ON SECURITY IN JAPAN HAS CHANGED. THE COUNTRY IS NOW PREPARED TO DO MORE AND, IN ADDITION, BY CONTRIBUTIONS TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE ECONOMIC AREA, THE JAPANESE CAN ALSO HELP THEM DO MORE TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN ABILITY TO MAINTAIN SECURITY. END TEXT.
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